But if there want of full so much, thy necke shall pay the
summe.
Breake vp the Coffer, Frier.
Frier. Oh I am vndone, faire *Alice* the Nunne
Hath tooke vp her rest in the Abbots chest.
Sancte benedicite pardon my simplicitie.
Fie *Alice*, confession will not salue this transgression.
Philip. What haue we heere, a holy Nunne? so keepe me
God in health.
A smooth fac'd Nunne (for ought I know) is all the Abbots
wealth.
Is this the Nunries chastitie?
Bestrew me but I thinke
They go as oft to venery, as niggards to their drinke.
Why paltry Frier and Pandar too, yee shameless shauen
crowne,
Is this the chest that held a hoord,
at least a thousand pound?
And is the hoord a holy whore,
well, be the hangman nimble,
Hee'l take the paine to pay you home,
and teach you to dissemble.
Nunne. O spare the Frier *Anthony*,
a better neuer was,
To sing a Dirge solemnly,
or read a morning masse.
If money be the meanes of this,
I know an ancient Nunne,
That hath a hoord these seuen yeares
did neuer see the sunne;
And that is yours, and what is ours,
so fauour now be showne,
You shall command as commonly,
ar if it were your owne.
Frier. Your honour excepted.
Nunne. I *Thomas*, I meane so.
Philip. From all saue from Friers.

Nun. Good sir, doe not thinke so
Phil. I thinke and see so:
Why how camst thou here?
Fri. To hide her from lay men.
Nun. Tis true sir, for feare.
Phil. For feare of the laitie: a pit
When a Nunne flies for succour to
But now for your ransome my cloy
To the chest that you speake of whe
Nun. Faire sir, within this presse,
The valew of a thousand markes, an
Let vs alone, and take it all, tis yours
Phil. Come on sir Frier, picke the
cotton hansome,
That couetousnesse so cunningly mu
What is in the hoord?
Fr. Frier *Laurance* my Lord, now
Some witch or some diuell is sent to
Haud Credo Laurentius, that thou sho
In the presse of a Nun we are all vn
And brought to discredence if thou
Fr. Amor vincit omnia, so *Cato* aff
And therefore a Frier whose fancy so
Because he is mortall and made of n
He omits what he ought, and doth n
Philip. How goes this geere? the
a fausen Nunne.
The Nunne againe lockes Frier vp,
to keepe him from the Sunne.
Belike the presse is Purgatory,
or penance passing grieuous:
The Friers chest a hell for Nunnes!
how doe these dolts deceiue vs
Is this the labour of their liues, to fee
To reuell so lasciuiously as often as
Ile mend the fault or faile my aime,
if I doe misse amending,

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE *King John* (STC 14647) LONDON, 1622 UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH (JA 3731)